

NWA show a real turkey

Usually, when the National Wrestling Alliance and World Wrestling Federation go head-up with each other on major shows, the former is able to display a decided edge in actual wrestling action.

The roles were reversed in last week's big shows. The NWA's Clash of the Champions on Tuesday night in Jacksonville, Fla., featured enough lemon matches to make pitchers of lemonade.

While Ric Flair's victory over Butch Reed was a near four-star match, it came on the heels of eight straight bad matches and an even worse skit. First, there was a match to determine the African representative in the Dec. 16 international tag-team tournament on pay-per-view. The match featured two South Africans from New Jersey, a Botswana Beast from Alabama and a Ugandan Giant who was replaced by a normal-sized man from Jacksonville. The NWA, which is spending thousands to import legitimate Soviet, Mexican and Japanese teams for its tournament, sabotaged all those efforts with this poorly constructed fiasco.

This week's incarnation of The Black Scorpion turned out to be not a wrestler, but a magician. His magical powers "turned" a fan in the audience into a leopard. That was a much easier trick than turning Sid Vicious and The Night Stalker into wrestlers. The two 310-pounders stumbled through the worst match in this country since the last time Mr. T wrestled.



Mr. Perfect

The show was predictable, it featured a sizeable helping of hot action, particularly from The Rockers, Bret (Hit Man) Hart, Ted (Million-Dollar Man) DiBiase, Paul Roma and Tito Santana. As expected, Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior left to take on four villainous survivors from previous matches — DiBiase, Roma, Hercules and Rick (The Model) Martel — finished them off in succession in just seven minutes of an anticlimactic finale. The highlight was the ending of the second match, with DiBiase and Hart putting on a four-minute clinic.

The low point was the introduction of a new character, the Gobbledy Gooker, which hatched out of a giant egg. As if the fans' reception for the WWF's answer to the San Diego Chicken weren't bad enough, announcer Roddy Piper made it worse by insisting amid all the jeering and groans that the audience loved the creature.

ETC: On Nov. 19, Mr. Perfect regained the WWF's Intercontinental title from Kerry Von Erich. . . . The Nasty Boys (Jerry Seganovich and Brian Nobbs) are leaving the NWA on Dec. 9 for the WWF.

The Grunt and Grin column appears every Tuesday.



**GRUNT
AND
GRIN**

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